

# COVID-19 Response Stakeholder briefing

28 January 2021

## COVID-19 Vaccination update: East Sussex

Welcome to your regular briefing from the Sussex Health and Care Partnership on the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in East Sussex.

### Introduction

The COVID-19 vaccination programme continues to be rolled out across our communities. The top line brief from this week is:

- We are on course to vaccinate the top four priority groups by mid-February, in line with the national target.
- All registered patients who are eligible for a vaccine has access to a GP-led vaccination service.
- A large vaccination centre opened at the Brighton Centre on Monday 25 January, offering access to eligible people across Sussex and beyond the county boundary.
- Vaccinated 90% of care homes for older people across Sussex, with the 10% being unable to be vaccinated due to COVID-19 outbreaks. These care homes will be revisited in 28 days.
- Developed eight hospital hubs, focussing on vaccinating health and care staff.
- Planned the expansion of the roving service to take the vaccine into people's own homes if they are housebound and cannot attend a vaccination site.

### Latest position

In the latest data published today, up to 24 January 2021 in Sussex:

- 202,509 doses of the COVID-19 vaccination have been delivered;
- 81,614 people aged 80 and over have been vaccinated;
- Sussex is 7<sup>th</sup> highest in the country for the number of people age 80 and over that have received their vaccination.

For full data: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/>

In the week since this data was recorded, progress has continued to be made and we remain on course to vaccinate the top four priority groups by mid-February, in line with the national target.

Our current position is:

- **Priority 1 - Residents and staff in a care home for older adults** - all older peoples care homes have received first dose vaccinations with the exception of 50 homes subject to an outbreak. Vaccinations for the remaining homes have been scheduled.
- **Priority 2 - Frontline Health and social care workers and aged 80+.** Front line NHS staff have received first dose vaccination and we are working to ensure that remaining social care staff vaccinations are completed by February 15th. 75.4% aged 80+ have now received the first dose vaccination. The majority of this cohort is expected to be completed by end of this week.
- **Priority 3 - Aged 75-79.** 35.4% of those aged 75-79 have received the first dose vaccination. The remainder of the cohort is expected to be completed by February 15th.
- **Priority 4 - Aged 70-74 and Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals** - 9.2% of those aged 70-74 have received the first dose vaccination and the remainder of this cohort is expected to be completed by February 15th. We have identified those who are clinically extremely vulnerable and are actively working with our PCNs to ensure this cohort is vaccinated as early as possible.

Data this week shows:

Priority group	Sussex		East Sussex	
	First dose	%	First dose	%
Age 70-74	9,582	9.2%	2,531	6.6%
Age 75-79	27,479	35.4%	9,525	33.1%
Age 80+	85,398	75.4%	28,707	70.0%

## How services are working

There are a number of ways in which the vaccination is being rolled out to our communities:

- **Local vaccination services** – these include the GP led or community vaccination services, and pharmacy services in some areas;
- **Large vaccination centres** – each county will have one large vaccination centre which will be able to give the vaccine to large numbers of people as more supplies become available. The Brighton Centre went live this week for anyone in the eligible groups living within 60 miles;
- **Roving service** – the vaccine is being taken into care homes and into people’s own homes if they cannot attend a vaccination site; and
- **Hospital hubs** – larger hospitals across the country have been offering the vaccine to people over 80 attending for a planned appointment. Now that more local vaccination services are up and running, hospital hubs are focused on vaccinating health and care staff.

### Local vaccination services

Key updates:

- All registered patients in Brighton and Hove have access to an active local vaccination service supported by their GP practice;

- Vaccinations took place in **Hailsham** this weekend for patients at all three of the GP practices focused on those aged 80 and over. More clinics are being planned for this week and weekend.
- A local vaccination service launched in **Etchingham** last week; it is a partnership between Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust and the GP practices in the primary care network.
- The service at Hampden Park in **Eastbourne** has moved to the Sovereign Centre, which provides more space and the ability to increase the number of vaccinations offered.
- Patients in **Seaford** are being invited to vaccination clinics both the Seaford Health Centre on Dane Road and the Old School Surgery on Church Street on Saturday 30th January.
- From this week Heathfield Surgery in the **Wealden** District will be starting to make appointments for their patients to receive the COVID-19 vaccination at their surgery. They will be contacting patients aged 75 and over and making appointments as deliveries of the vaccine are confirmed.
- Two pharmacies are now live across East Sussex providing a vaccination service accessible via the national booking system – Ore and Ticehurst.

The local vaccination services for East Sussex are currently:

### **Eastbourne**

*The Beacon Shopping Centre, for patients at:*

- Victoria Medical Centre

*Sovereign Centre, for patients at:*

- Arlington Road Surgery, Grove Road Surgery, Park Practice, Seaside Medical Centre, and The Lighthouse Medical Practice

*Princes Park Health Centre, for patients at:*

- Harbour Medical Practice, Sovereign Practice, Stone Cross Surgery in Pevensey, and Downlands Medical Centre and Manor Park Surgery, both in Polegate

### **Hastings**

*Kings Church, for patients at:*

- Beaconsfield Road Surgery, Carisbrooke Surgery, Churchwood Medical Practice, Harold Road Surgery, Hastings Old Town Surgery, High Glades Medical Centre, Priory Road Surgery, Sedlescombe House, South Saxon House Surgery, The Station Practice, and Warrior Square Surgery

*Laycocks Pharmacy, Ore*

### **Lewes district**

*For Lewes: River Lodge Surgery, for patients at:*

- Foundry Healthcare Lewes

*For Seaford: Hampden Park Health Centre in Eastbourne, for patients at:*

- Old School Surgery and Seaford Medical Practice

*For the Havens: Brighton Racecourse, for patients at:*

- Chapel Street Surgery and Quayside Medical Practice in Newhaven, and Havens Health in Peacehaven

## **Rother district**

For patients in the district there a vaccination service went live last week at:

*For Bexhill: Sidley Medical Practice, for patients at:*

- Collington Surgery, Little Common Surgery, Pebham Surgery and Sidley Medical Practice

*Etchingham Village Hall, for patients at:*

- Fairfield Surgery, Ferry Road Health Centre, Martins Oak Surgery, Northiam Surgery, Oldwood Surgery, Rye Medical Centre, and Sedlescombe and Westfield Surgeries

*Ticehurst pharmacy*

## **Wealden district**

Across the district there are vaccination services available for patients living in and around Crowborough and Uckfield. The services are:

*For Crowborough: Saxonbury House Medical Centre, for patients at:*

- Ashdown Forest Health Centre, Beacon Surgery, Wadhurst Medical Group, Groombridge and Hartfield Medical Group, Rotherfield Surgery, Saxonbury House Surgery, and Woodhill Surgery

*For Uckfield: The Meads Medical Centre, for patients at:*

- Bird-in-Eye Surgery, Buxted Medical Centre, Herstmonceux Integrative Health Centre, Heathfield Surgery, Mid Downs Medical Practice, and The Meads Surgery

*For Hailsham:*

- Bridgeside Surgery, Hailsham Medical Group, Quintins Medical Centre

## **Large vaccination centres**

The first large vaccination centre for Sussex went live on Monday 25 January at The Brighton Centre.

The service is by appointment only with vaccinations delivered by teams from Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (SCFT), the largest provider of community services in Sussex.

The Brighton Centre will offer appointments 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, and as a result could deliver up to 3,000 vaccinations a day (subject to the supply of vaccines), enabling the NHS to significantly increase capacity to deliver vaccinations.

Further to The Brighton Centre, a large vaccination centre is due to open in Eastbourne next week, and the teams are finalising plans for a large vaccination centre in West Sussex.

Appointments for The Brighton Centre, and further large vaccination centres as they go live, is through the national booking system. People in the eligible groups, who have not had their vaccination and who live within 60 miles of a service location are receiving letters inviting them to book their vaccination.

The letters have caused confusion as they do not explicitly reference the local vaccination services that are also delivering the COVID-19 vaccination.

People who have received a letter can either use the national booking system to arrange an appointment at a large-scale vaccination centre or pharmacy, or wait to be contacted by their local vaccination service (supported by your GP practice) to arrange an appointment.

### **Roving service (care homes and those who are housebound)**

Older people in care homes are one of the top priority groups for the COVID-19 vaccine.

In line with the national target to have vaccinated all care homes by the end of the month, we have been working tirelessly to vaccinate both residents and staff across Sussex. As of 25 January 2021, we had vaccinated more than 8,381 residents across a total of 454 care homes for older people (equating to 90 per cent of all of our care homes for older people in Sussex).

Unfortunately anyone with COVID-19 is unable to receive the vaccine while they are recovering. Some care homes are currently experiencing positive cases of COVID-19 amongst their residents and in these cases the home or those residents who are unwell have not been able to have their vaccination at this point. The vaccination teams have a clear schedule in place and will be revisiting them 28 days following the positive test.

In Sussex, we have one of the highest numbers of nursing and care homes per capita across the country and so this is a significant undertaking but thanks to the dedication and commitment of our vaccination teams from GP-led services and Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust we are making excellent progress towards achieving the government target.

Vaccinations for those who are housebound are also underway carried out by GP practices teams and Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust. You will be contacted when an appointment is available and we are on track to have completed everyone who is housebound by mid February.

### **Hospital hubs**

There are now eight hospital hub vaccination services in Sussex focused on the vaccination of health and care staff, including care home staff. Health and care staff will be told by their employer how they can book an appointment at one of the following hubs:

- Conquest Hospital, Hastings
- Eastbourne District General Hospital
- Mill View Hospital, Hove
- Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath
- Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead
- Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton
- St Richards Hospital, Chichester
- Worthing Hospital

## Messages for the public

This is the largest vaccination programme ever undertaken by the NHS and a vital part of our fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

In Sussex we have developed a “When will I get my jab” campaign so that we can address any questions, concerns or would like to know more about the programme.

As part of the campaign, we will be promoting the campaign’s key messages across internal and external communications, including social media and the traditional media.

There is also now a range of digital animations to answer some of the big questions. These are all on the Sussex Commissions YouTube or we could send you the direct links – please feel free to share these on your own channels.

Over the coming weeks we will continue to promote three important messages for the public:

1. The NHS will contact you when it’s your turn. Services are very busy providing care and rolling out the vaccine, so please wait to be contacted.
2. Please act on your invite when it comes.
3. The vaccine is one of our best defences against COVID-19 but for now it is still essential that we do all we can to stop the spread of the virus. Adhering to the current restrictions and remembering hands, face and space will save lives and help the NHS.

More information is on the ICS website -

<https://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/keepsussexsafe/sussex-covid-19-vaccination-programme/>

## Frequently Asked Questions



We know that people want to know more about the vaccination programme and how it will affect them and their loved-ones.

To help us get information out to people and deal with the high volume of enquiries that we are receiving, we are regularly updating our FAQs on the [Sussex Health and Care Partnership website](#), to address common questions and queries. A summary of this this week’s top questions is below.

## Top frequently asked questions for East Sussex

### ***I have been sent a letter inviting me to book my vaccination – what do I need to do***

We are aware that patients are starting to receive letters from the national vaccination booking system. The letter is labelled only from the NHS and invites you to book your vaccination appointment.

We recognise that these letters are causing confusion and we want to provide a simple summary of how people can receive their vaccination and the purpose of these letters.

In our area, people in the eligible groups are able to receive their vaccination at either a GP led or local vaccination service, a larger vaccination centre such as the Brighton Centre which went live this week, a local pharmacy service, or a roving service which is visiting care homes and those who are housebound.

All of these services are working alongside each other and provide people with choice to decide where they would like to receive their vaccination.

GP led or local vaccination services are contacting patients directly by phone, text or letter to book an appointment. People will also be contacted directly if they are housebound and not able to access a service.

Appointments at the larger vaccination centres and local pharmacy services are available through a national booking system and the letters set out how you can access this – both through a website and a phone line.

The letters are being sent to anyone in the eligible priority groups who live in a 60 mile radius from a vaccination centre or a local pharmacy service. It is important to say that this is not just in Sussex and if you live in proximity to a vaccination centre or pharmacy in Hampshire, Kent or Surrey, you are able to book for these and have your vaccination there.

If you have received a letter, you can either use the national booking system to arrange an appointment at a large vaccination centre or pharmacy, or you can leave the letter and you will continue to be contacted by your GP led or local vaccination service (supported by your GP practice) to arrange an appointment.

### ***What is the difference between the vaccination service at the Brighton Centre and the GP-led services in East Sussex?***

The Brighton Centre is a large-scale vaccination centre serving the wider population of Sussex and those living beyond county boundaries. It will offer appointments 12 hours a day, 7 days a week and could deliver up to 3,000 vaccinations a day (subject to the supply of vaccines), enabling the NHS to significantly increase capacity to deliver vaccinations. GP-led vaccination services provide appointments for patients at specific GP practices.

While GPs invite their patients to get vaccinated at their local vaccination service, appointments at the vaccination centres are made through the national booking service.

The NHS national booking service writes to eligible people, living within 60 miles of a vaccination centre, inviting them to book an appointment at the centre online or over the phone. The letter contains all the details people will need to book their appointment.

Anyone receiving a letter from the national booking service can choose whether to book an appointment at the vaccination centre, or wait until they are contacted by their GP for an appointment at their local vaccination service if that would be more convenient.

Both large-scale vaccination centres and GP-led services are focused on the vaccination of the first four priority groups, with a focus remaining on the over 80s, with the over 70s and clinically extremely vulnerable to follow shortly.

***How do I get an appointment at the Brighton Centre, or any of the other vaccination centres?***

The national NHS booking service will be writing to eligible people, living within 60 miles of a vaccination centre, inviting them to book an appointment at the centre online or over the phone. The letter contains all the details people will need to book their appointment.

At present eligible people prioritised by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) are:

- people aged 80 and over
- people who live or work in care homes for older adults
- frontline health and social care workers

While the over 80s remain the priority, vaccinations can also now be offered to people aged over 70 and the clinically extremely vulnerable, to ensure that all vaccination appointment slots are filled and available vaccine is used and not wasted.

***Why is my local/GP-led vaccination service not open all week?***

All our GP-led or local vaccination services are working extremely hard to vaccinate as many people as quickly as possible with the vaccines they have available, and we expect all those in the top four priority groups to be vaccinated by mid-February.

The days that these services are open largely depends on the supply of vaccine from the national stocks, so not running the vaccination service everyday isn't unusual at this time.

Most local vaccination services are receiving confirmation of their delivery, then working to invite in people for that set number of vaccines, and then will open for dedicated days to use up their vaccine before it expires (for the Pfizer vaccine this is usually within a three day window).

GP practices are also working really hard at the moment to maintain both general medical services and the vaccination programme, and so will have teams back in their surgeries to ensure that can continue to provide the day to day care needed by their patients.

So if your local vaccination service doesn't appear to be vaccinating one day, they will be back in their GP practices, providing care to patients, making appointments for their next sessions, and getting ready for when the service opens that week.

***I am housebound – when and how will I get my vaccination?***

We are now starting to vaccinate those in the first four priority groups for the COVID-19 vaccination who are housebound and cannot access vaccination through local vaccination services or the vaccination centre. This is being supported by the GP practices in their primary care networks and in some cases by Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust.



We expect those who are housebound and in the initial priority groups to hear within the next two weeks about when an appointment will be available for a home visit. Those contacts will be made directly by GP practices.

A full FAQ is available here: <https://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/keepsussexsafe/sussex-covid-19-vaccination-programme/faqs-about-the-covid-19-vaccine/>

**If you have a question about the Sussex COVID-19 vaccination programme, which is not answered in our FAQ document, please do let us know using the dedicated mailbox [Sxccg.vaccineenquiries@nhs.net](mailto:Sxccg.vaccineenquiries@nhs.net)**